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Focahontas County
Chapter 6 Religion
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Mount Lebanon Methodist Church- Lobelia

The Mt. Lebanon M. E. Church was built in 1870. It is a frame building and succeeded an old school house which was used for church purposes for many years.

Among the first members were:

Richard Hill, Aaron Hill and Joel O. Hill, grandsons of the pioneer Richard Hill; John Snedegar, Ebenezer Whiting, Polly Morrison, William Morrison, and Betsy Sharp.

The first preacher who served this church was the Rev. J. S. Wickline, then George Wanless and D. C. Hedrick. The first preachers were paid mostly with food stuffs, and a little money.

The following incident happened soon after the Civil War and while the people were still using the school house. Bradford Bruffey, the father of Thomas A. Bruffey who gave me this information, and the Rev. Baldwin a Southern Methodist minister went to the school house to hold services. When they came in sight they saw an assembled audience watching them, but before they reached the school house the people locked the door and scattered in all directions. Rev. Baldwin set up a makeshift pulpit out side and preached his sermon to Mr. Bruffey as if nothing had happened.

The deed for the church lot was given on Feb. 13, 1868 by Abraham Hill and Alice his wife, and George Hill, parties of the first part, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre between their lands.
Deed Book 8 page 452